Appl. No. 10/644,293

Amendment and Response dated May 23, 2006

Reply to Office Action of November 23, 2005

Remarks

Claims 1, 46, 47, 48 and 49 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to

more clearly define the invention, as requested by the Examiner. New claims 48 and 49 have

been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected original claims 1 and 46-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, on the basis

that they omitted essential steps. In response, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define

the process steps. The mixture of enantiomers is provided as an 5'-O-acylated derivative, which

is stereoselectively hydrolyzed by the enzymes, Amano PS-800 lipase and α-chymotrypsin.

After exposure of this mixture to the enzyme, the 5'-O-hydrolyzed enantiomer is separated from

the 5'-O-unhydrolyzed enantiomer. Support for this amendment is found on page 9, lines 19-21,

page 10, lines 12-17, and page 13, lines 14-20 of the specification.

New claims 48 and 49 have been added to specify the R groups recited in claim 1.

Support for these claims is found on page 12, line 14 to page 13, line 5 of the specification.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the current amendment and remarks overcome the

Examiner's outstanding rejections. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully

requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency to Deposit Account 11-

0980.

Respectfully submitted,

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4 of 4